

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

December 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Present: Ginger Lacy (co-chair), Brian Janes (co-chair), Susan Anderson, Dick Bixby, Gayle Lawrence, Garry Plunkett, Martha Moore, Martin Van Hof and Phil Schuyler.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Ginger Lacy.

Essex Library, Highland Rd, Tiverton, RI

ADMINISTRATIVE:

- The minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were accepted.
- Treasurer's Report was presented by Dick Bixby: Open Space - \$1500.00, Fort Barton - \$1634.67, Stewardship - \$7000.37, Pocassetlands - \$3644.00 (including annual RIF 'grant' of \$749.00), Open Space Acquisition - \$59,885.00. Accepted as presented.
- Volunteer hours were reported to Garry Plunkett.
- It was noted that the Tiverton Sign Shop has printed an additional 1000 trail maps for Weetamoo at no cost to TOSC.
- It was noted that Pat Sullivan, Conservation Commission, is seeking support for an effort to control the noise at the quarry property on Brayton Road. The matter was discussed.

TRAILS AND HABITAT:

- Fort Barton – Phil reported that the streams are running full, very little litter, the seventh bridge requires replacement of two cross-ties -task to be completed when weather permits.
- Weetamoo – It was suggested that there is a need for better signage at the intersections of many trails. The issue was discussed at length. Garry is tasked with seeking a solution. Garry reported that he had been approached by Dennis Talbot, who is developing a parcel off East Main Road that abuts Weetamoo Woods (near the Orange Trail). Dennis inquired about creating a trail from his subdivision to connect with the Orange Trail. The issue was discussed. A consensus was reached that TOSC cannot agree to the establishment of a private entrance to Weetamoo.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS:

- Garry provided an update on the status of the NRCS grant for the Weetamoo grassland habitat improvement project. Remaining funding will cover additional removal of invasives and late season mowing for through 2010.
- Gayle described Trail Grants that might be requested. It was agreed that TOSC should decide which grants to seek. There followed a discussion of the options, including: 1) East Road parking lot improvement/expansion involving the extension of parking to the stone wall west of 8 Rod Way [Garry will investigate], 2) maintaining trail sections where depressions have created wet areas. Garry will contact Larry Tavares re: possibility of bringing in 3" stone for trail improvements. Garry & Martin will look into a proposal for a small front end loader. Garry will contact the DPW administrator about possible assistance in East Road parking lot project. Also suggested was looking into DEM Recreation Trail Program for trail development monies.
- Gayle proposed increasing our involvement with the schools in order to make it possible to expose more students to experiences in Open Space and also to increase adult programs that achieve the same goal. Discussion followed.

PROPERTIES REVIEW:

- Brian proposed that TOSC talk with other town commissions (Recreation and Stone Bridge Water Authority) to discover their interest in seeking grant opportunities for possible land acquisition, which would benefit the town as a whole.

Adjourned at 9:18 PM. NEXT MEETING: January 27, 2010 at Essex Library. Respectfully submitted: Phil Schuyler